



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 27, No. 19 - Friday, Nov. 21, 2003 – Brooks City-Base, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Force development briefing puts Brooks officers, civilian supervisors ‘in the right place’

By 2nd Lt. Daniel Goldberg
311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

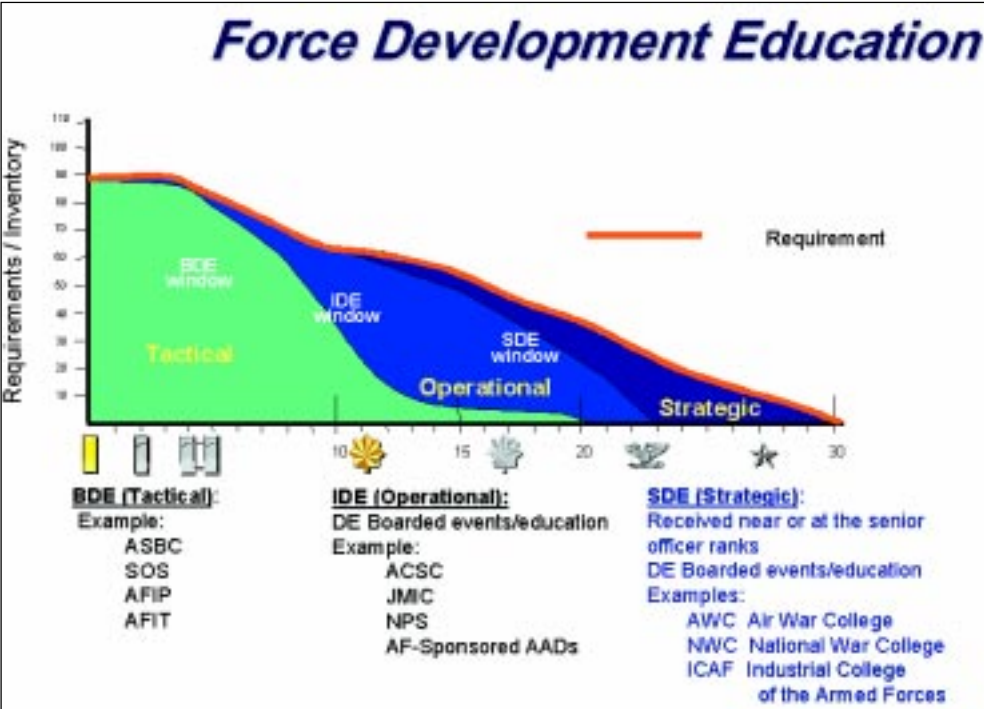
Brig. Gen. Perry Lamy, director of operations, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, visited Brooks City-Base Tuesday to discuss the new Force Development initiative implemented recently by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. Assignments, education and training opportunities are what’s going to put the right people, at the right time in the right place with the right skill, according to Lamy.

In the Nov. 6, 2002, Chiefs Sight Picture, Jumper said, “Our goal in implementing our new Force Development construct is to make that investment in all career fields and all ranks more

“Our goal in implementing our new Force Development construct is to make that investment in all career fields and all ranks more deliberately than we do today in order to better prepare us for the future and better meet your expectations.”

Gen. John Jumper
AF Chief of Staff

deliberately than we do today in order to better prepare us for the future and better meet your expectations ... Most importantly, we have made sure that this new emphasis reflects a sincere



Force Development Education

respect for your time — time that you owe to other priorities in your life, like your families.”

Lamy explained to a packed crowd of mostly officers and civilian supervisors at the Brooks gym that the new initiative is a better, more deliberate development for the Air Force’s most

important resource — personnel. This new Force Development will start at the officer level and will eventually include enlisted, civilian, Guard and reserve members.

The assignments portion of Lamy’s

Development, Page 4

AFMC vice commander reflects on 36 years in blue

By Tech. Sgt. Carl Norman
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCSN) — The Air Force and he, an 18-year-old from the hills of Tennessee, grew up together, reaching for the stars.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in basic science, Cadet Charles Coolidge graduated in the Air Force Academy’s 10th class — just 20 years after the Air Force became a separate service. He then went on to pilot training, graduating the day before Neal Armstrong walked on the moon. Those events put into motion a career that would span 24 assignments in a dozen states and one foreign country.

“I’ve had the opportunity to serve in virtually every part of our Air Force from the first command to materiel command, which is ‘the’ supporter of the warfighter,” he said. “Without us the warfighters are nothing and vice versa. We are nothing without them.”

But all good things must come to an end. Coolidge, now a lieutenant general and Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, retires in January 2004, ending 36 years of wearing Air Force blue.

“I can retire with confidence because the future of our Air Force is in great hands,” he said. “Today’s Air Force is a much better Air Force than the one I joined. Our young people are highly trained, moti-



Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge

vated and better educated that we were.”

During his tenure, Coolidge has proven pretty successful according to most people’s standards. He’s served in five major commands and on the staff of four of those, shaping policy and procedures for service members around the globe in nearly every Air Force mission area.

But when it comes to talking success, the general is reserved. “I’ve always felt success is doing the best I could do at a job and not worrying about the consequences,” he said.

“About every time I thought I understood my job and thought I was getting proficient at it, somebody would give me another one,” he said. “I was invigorated by that. I thought it was neat to work for people who keep you stretching and forever reaching for more

Coolidge, Page 3

‘One click, one call’ customer service covers pay, personnel issues

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, (AFPN) — A one-stop customer service phone number and Web page are up and running, linking several call centers and online resources Air Force people use when managing personnel and pay information.

A single phone number and a companion Web site now make it easier for Air Force active-duty and reserve component military, as well as U.S. appropriated fund civilian employees, to find what they need quickly, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

Customers can find answers to questions by calling toll free (800) 616-3775 or visiting www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst. Until now the burden has been on Air Force people to determine which agency handles a particular issue before contacting customer service by phone or on the Web. Customers will be able to access any of the following support services by using the new number and Web site:

- Air Force Contact Center for general military personnel inquiries, including discrimination and sexual harassment concerns and assistance in navigating the virtual military personnel flight application.
- Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver for

Service, Page 6

Inside this issue:

News	4
Crossword	11
Sports	18
Briefs	19
Chapel schedule	19



Brooks gets a taste of the future of training

Page 8



Science pioneer Teller leaves a legacy

Pages 15-16



Happy Thanksgiving



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A holiday message from the commander

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving to enjoy the traditional meal and activities, please remember the purpose of this distinctly American holiday. And as you give thanks for all your blessings, take a moment to remember and say a prayer to keep safe all the American warriors around the world who are not with their families.

And as always, please be safe.



Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander



George Washington

George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enable to

establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted' for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have show kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d dy of October, A.D. 1789.

(signed)
G. Washington



Special duty assignments offer many career rewards

By **Senior Master Sgt. Michael Walljasper**
311th Human Systems Wing

Have you ever considered taking a break from your career field to try something different for a while? The Air Force offers many opportunities for you to excel as either a military training instructor, Air Force recruiter, military training leader or as an instructor.

The positions offer a variety of challenges, the ultimate in leadership experience and some tangible rewards, as well.

A three-year controlled tour in recruiting duty brings in \$450 in special duty assignment pay per month, an additional \$197 in annual clothing allowance, advanced testing opportunities and training.

As a military training instructor, the rewards include tour stability, \$375 in special duty assignment pay per month, an additional \$197 in annual clothing allowance, testing and the MTI ribbon. Military training leaders have tour stability and receive and an additional \$197 in annual clothing allowance. Instructors have tour stability and other benefits.

Special duty can set you up for success. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray said, "NCOs who spend three or four years in a special duty bring a broader perspective and experience back to the career field. And in the future, promotion boards may be asked to consider such duties as part of the "whole man."

With the proximity to training environments and the abundance of local recruiters, interested members can shadow a recruiter for a day or an MTI for a week.

These assignments are reserved for the "cream of the crop" and have strict criteria for selection. If you have what it takes, call 536-5528 for more information.

difficult challenges and working with talented, wonderful people who share the same values. Money on the outside was not that important as long as my family was taken care of and comfortable. This was all I wanted to do in life."

In Vietnam, his only overseas assignment, the general trained Vietnamese pilots how to defend their country. Some, he said, had never flown an airplane before and some "could fly circles around us."

"Flying with someone whose language you don't speak, and with a crew whose customs, courtesies and language are all different than yours, is unique and it changes how you think about things," Coolidge said.

He said it made him realize there are good things in everyone even though they may come from different cultures, something that would frame his career.

"If you trust them, depend on them, tell them how important they are and have your actions speak as loud as your words, people won't let you down. They live up to expectations, regardless," he said.

Looking back on 36 years as an Air Force officer, Coolidge said he enjoyed all aspects of his career, but teaching thousands of Air Force Academy cadets physics and basic pilot training tops his list of most enjoyable.

"When I say teaching, I mean helping them learn, because I didn't teach them anything," he said with a laugh.

He said the only job he actually sought in the Air Force was physics instructor duty at the academy. Incidentally, he also wound up running the Wings of Blue parachute team program, scheduling aircraft, assigning crews and doing virtually everything an operational unit does — as a captain. He has about 100 jumps under his belt.

Despite his rank and accomplishments, Coolidge said people have to set their own goals to define success.

Coolidge

Continued from Page 1

“I’ve had the opportunity to serve in virtually every part of our Air Force from the first command to materiel command, which is ‘the’ supporter of the warfighter.”

Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge
AFMC Vice Commander

"My goals are faith, family and mission," he said. "Maybe people would question whether I have them in the right order; I think I do. How can you devote time to one and two and still do three? I think if you have the first two right, the third takes care of itself. I've never sought after an assignment myself and have never promoted myself for assignments. I figure if I do a good enough job, my boss will take care of my future."

He also said that though he chose the Air Force doesn't mean it's for everyone.

"That's a personal decision and a family decision," he said. "I can tell them that my experiences have been exhilarating, fun, challenging, rewarding, stressful, difficult and ones I would never trade for anything else in the world. Every day ought to be challenging, fun and an experience. If you're not having fun in the Air Force, then you're doing it all wrong."

Based on that, Coolidge is apparently doing things right because he said he's excited about coming to work every day. He credits his philosophy and work ethic to pretty high inspiration — a father who is a Medal of Honor recipient.

"My dad has a military aspect to him most parents don't have. Frankly I didn't understand how rare a Medal of Honor was until I was at the Air Force Academy," Coolidge said. "You grow up with that, and with people who are his acquaintances and friends who are other Medal of Honor recipients who

you'd see on a semi frequent basis, and you think this is kind of old hat stuff. But it's not. It's incredible what a Medal of Honor represents."

But Coolidge credits both his father and mother for being supportive throughout his years in blue. "They've been the wind beneath my wings all through my life, an inspiration, an example and role models," he said. "In days where we look to role models, my father is one and so is my mom."

Switching his focus to mentorship, Coolidge listed several names who have mentored him that could be a who's who of Air Force leaders — former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman, Gen. John Handy, Air Mobility Command commander, and other former Air Force chiefs of staff, major command commanders and fellow instructors.

"Mentorship is a subordinate being able to talk to a senior person on literally any subject and learn from them; a mentor who's been through the ropes before and gives you the lay of the land without telling you what to choose," he said. "I don't think a mentor provides a useful service if they tell you what choices to make."

He said the best thing to do is lay out the options and provide a little guidance.

As he packed mementos from his office in AFMC headquarters, Coolidge said, "It's been an incredible honor and privilege for me to serve in the Air Force. Everyday I get up and am excited to go to work. The day that that stops is probably the day you need to hang it up."

"Fortunately for me that's never happened, not because I was getting promoted, but because I enjoyed every minute of working with all the people I got to work with. When I see others succeed, I applaud because I too have succeeded. I share in their success. That's what my Air Force career has been all about. I like to applaud."



myPay offers electronic W-2s

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — Current myPay military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees with myPay access will now automatically receive an electronic W-2.

The electronic method is now the primary means of delivery, officials said. Users may elect to receive a printed W-2 by mail by choosing the hard-copy option through myPay before Dec. 1.

“This is an opportunity for our customers to better manage their pay information,” said Dennis Eicher, director for electronic commerce, military- and civilian-pay services at DFAS.

“We are providing myPay customers access to their tax and pay preferences online. We also know some individuals would rather have a hard-copy statement, so we are giving them that choice,” he said.

The online version, complete with printing instructions, is compatible for all tax purposes and allows users to have multiple copies without needing a hard copy. A save button is also available to allow individuals to save their W-2s to disk.

There will be a “no change” period from Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, officials said. During this period users will not be allowed to change their W-2 print election on myPay but may request a

paper W-2 by contacting their local financial services office.

To select the hard copy W-2, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Under Taxes, select “Turn on/off Hardcopy of W-2.” Once this option is selected, carefully read the various questions posed. The user will be given the opportunity to select “hard copy.” This will allow the user to receive a hard copy by mail and still be able to see the W-2 electronically.

Retired airmen and annuitants, as well as civilians outside of DFAS will continue to receive their tax statements or 1099 statements by mail. No action is required.

Personnel are reminded that beginning Dec. 1, all military members are required to have a myPay Personal Identification Number.

Starting Jan. 2, members will no longer receive a hard copy LES. Instead myPay will provide instant access.

Members who don’t already have a PIN can contact Finance at 536-5778, stop by the Finance Customer Service office in Bldg. 570A or request a PIN by e-mail by sending a message to: michelle.mitchell@brooks.af.mil.

Use caution when accessing leave and earning statements. Use only the secure official Web site at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Development

Continued from Page 1

briefing highlighted the new development team, which will collaboratively work with the member, the member’s chain of command and the assignments team to review a development plan that will place the person in the right assignment. This is designed to meet Air Force needs while better accommodating individuals abilities, goals and objectives.

The education portion dealt specifically with developmental education or DE, formally known as professional military education. Under the new initiative there are three types of developmental education — basic DE for

second lieutenant through captain, intermediate DE for major through lieutenant colonel and strategic DE for colonel and above.

Lamy went on to say square filling would no longer be valued in the Air Force. Masking advanced academic degrees, placing greater emphasis on instructor duty deployments as well as prior enlisted service are all under review.

More information can be found at: www.dp.hq.af.mil/afslmo/fd and www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas.

Daniel.Goldberg@Brooks.af.mil

‘Lab’ teaches warfighters to combat sleep deprivation

By 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt
Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

The Air Force Research Laboratory conducts the first comprehensive training program on how to manage fatigue in military aviation operations next week at Brooks.

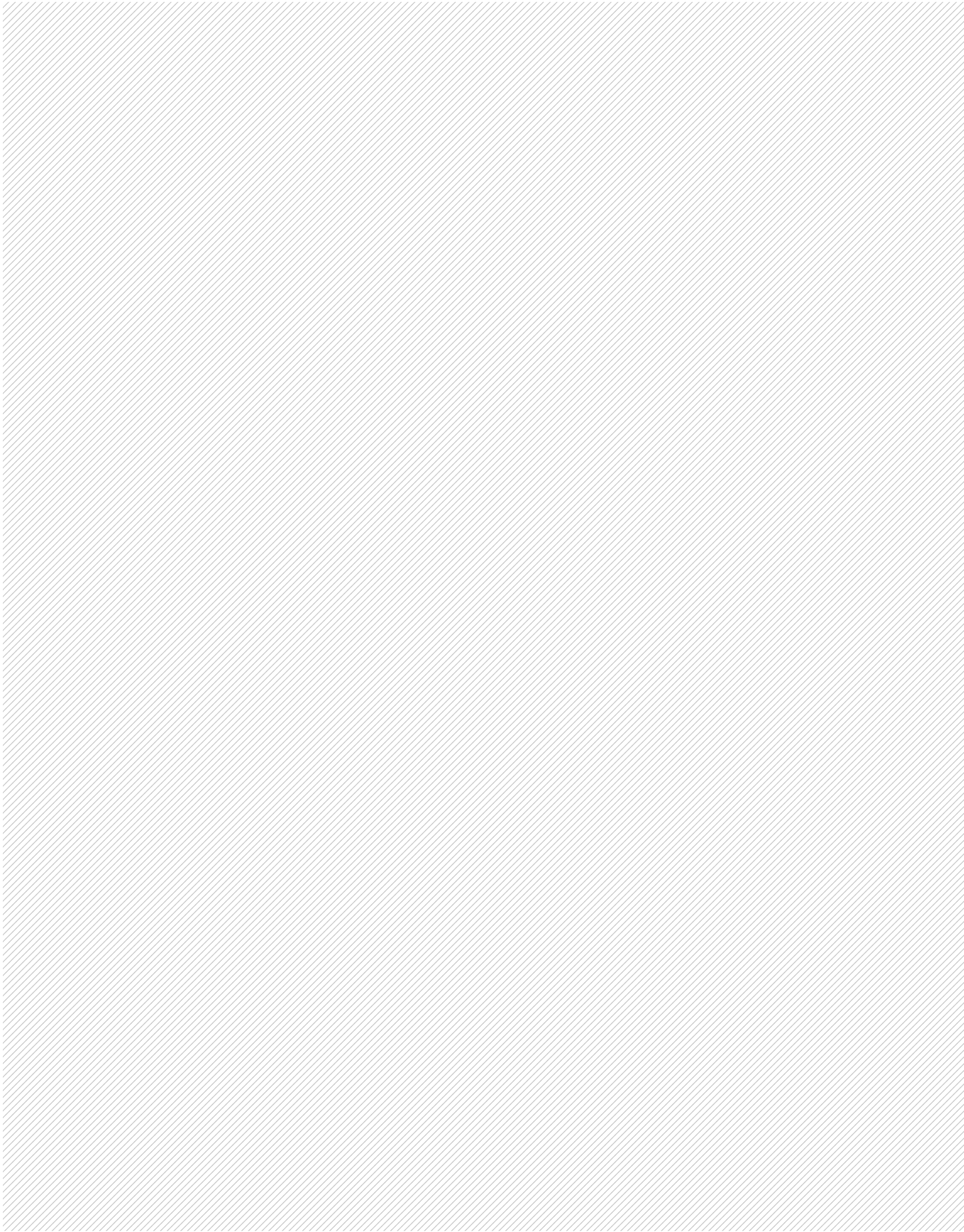
The course is geared toward pilots, aircrews, flight surgeons, maintenance personnel, schedulers and safety officers.

Dr. John Caldwell, Dr. J. Lynn Caldwell, and Dr. James Miller, of AFRL’s Human Effectiveness Directorate, put the Warfighter Fatigue Coun-

termeasures Program together in response to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld’s call for a 50 percent reduction in the number of mishaps and accidents during the next two years.

The two-day workshop outlines the dangers of fatigue in military aviation and related operations, the mechanisms underlying fatigue, common causes of overly-tired personnel, and techniques for optimizing alertness in military environments.

The next course is scheduled for Jan. 14 and 15, 2004. Interested DoD personnel should register before Jan. 2 with Charlie.Dean@brooks.af.mil.





Brooks branch shares AF ‘Bank of the Year’ Award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks branch of Eisenhower National Bank and its sister branches at Randolph, Lackland Annex and Goodfellow Air Force Bases have collectively won the prestigious Air Force “Bank of the Year” Award for 2003. It is the first time that Brooks and its sister branches have won this honor.

The award was presented by the Secretary of the Air Force banking officer at the annual conference of the Association of Military Banks of America in Kansas City, Mo., recently.

“I’ve been submitting nominations for this award since 1984. It’s such a great honor to (finally) win,” said Elaine Ryan, vice president and branch manager for the Randolph, Brooks City-Base and Lackland Annex branches.

Explaining the criteria for the award, Ryan said, “They (award committee) want to know what we are doing as a bank to make life better for the people who live and work at your base.”

The Brooks branch’s contributions to the award focused on primarily educating the enlisted force about banking services.

“During the past year, we conducted briefings for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, first-term air-



Courtesy photo

Don Giles, left, president of the Association of Military Banks of America, Josephine Davis, United States banking officer in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Elaine Ryan, vice president and branch manager at Eisenhower Bank, and Greg Oveland, president and CEO at Eisenhower National Bank, accept the Air Force Bank of the Year award at the Association of Military Banks of America annual conference. Brooks and its sister branches at Randolph, Lackland and Goodfellow Air Force Bases earned the award.

men and at newcomers’ orientations on the benefits of savings plans,” Ryan explained.

The branch staff also supported the 311th Human Systems Wing quarterly and annual awards, and provided car buying seminars as part of a Family Support initiative.

Air Education and Training Command, headquartered at Randolph AFB, selected the Eisenhower Bank branches from among its 13 bases to represent them at Air Force level.

Service

Continued from Page 1

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel inquiries.

— Defense Finance and Accounting Service’s Cleveland Contact Center for Air Force military pay inquiries and assistance with the myPay application.

— AFPC Technical Assistance Center for technical support for applications such as vMPF, assignment management system, AFPC Secure and PC-III.

— AFPC Recruiting Service Center for civilian appropriated fund job opportunities.

— AFPC Benefits and Entitlements Service Team for civilian appropriated-fund benefits and entitlements.

This latest evolution in customer self-service is the product of revolutionary cooperation between different agencies inside and outside of the Air Force, officials said.

“A substantial partnership between military and civilian personnel, Air Force financial services (military pay), and Defense Finance and Accounting Service — years in the making — is making one-stop customer service possible,” said James Short, the Air Force’s deputy assistant secretary for financial operations.

“It goes beyond just a phone number and a Web page,” said Roger Blanchard, assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel.

“What our customer service transformation team is beginning to do is actually combine customer service efforts behind the scenes to serve customers faster and more efficiently.”

“A substantial partnership between military and civilian personnel, Air Force financial services (military pay), and Defense Finance and Accounting Service — years in the making — is making one-stop customer service possible.”

James Short
AF deputy assistant secretary
for financial operations

Several of the linked call centers are at the personnel center, where leaders have been facilitating the consolidation of Air Force customer-service operations.

“We are making sure that customer service is a lot more than a 1-800 number,” said Maj. Gen. Tom O’Riordan, personnel center commander.

“Our focus is making sure we meet the needs of the field, and that we accelerate those changes that make life simpler for the commander and our airmen.”

Customers calling from international locations and hearing-impaired employees should continue to dial the number they currently use to access support for personnel or pay matters, officials said.

The new toll-free number should begin accommodating foreign area calls early next year, officials said.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BX Market.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

IRA distribution

Dec. 3, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—
This Individual Retirement Account seminar focuses on who is qualified, how to open an account and other various aspects of investing for your retirement.

Smooth move

Dec. 4, 12:30 - 3 p.m., Bldg. 537—
PCSing? Hear briefings from travel, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The seminar is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

PCS overseas

Dec. 4, 3 - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—
Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move seminar and staying after for this class.

Sponsor training

Dec. 9, 9 - 10 a.m., Bldg. 537—
In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. Others are welcome to attend to learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Bundles for Babies — expectant parent session

Dec. 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—
Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or who are expecting a child should attend this Air Force Aid Society-sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and more.

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—
You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment with a credit counselor.

VA benefits assistance hours

Wednesdays, alternate Fridays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537—
The on-site VA representative at Brooks now has expanded hours to better accommodate base personnel. Schedule an appointment to receive claims assistance, screen medical records or have a one-on-one consultation.

Call the Family Support Center at 536-2444, or toll free at 877-747-5938, to register for class, make an appointment or for more information.



MURT meets ATSO, provides unique training

By 2Lt. Daniel Goldberg
311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

The 311th Human Systems Wing recently implemented its first field Medical Unit Readiness Training in conjunction with an Ability To Survive and Operate evaluation in Brooks’ history. Although it wasn’t the usual two-day MURT course medics have to attend, it allowed students to practice their wartime mission in an ATSO environment.

MURT is training medical units attend to practice their specific wartime mission in a simulated deployed location.

The evaluation served a two-fold purpose between base readiness and the 311th Medical Squadron. The 311th MDS needed to accomplish its training and the 311th Plans and Readiness Division needed to test how well members were familiar with the Airman’s Manual, the ATSO guide, chemical warfare training and their specific medical training.

“We provided highly customized Medical Unit Readiness Training for medical personnel that is just exclusive for Brooks,” said Ron Collins, readiness specialist for the 311th XPR and the one responsible for exercise logistics. “We customized a simulated wartime environment for medical specialists to conduct their wartime task.”

Collins continued, “The idea of pro

viding a format to enhance the readiness of our deployable personnel came about jointly with the chief of the EET and the readiness staff. It was our desire to provide a means to evaluate personnel in a deployable environment, thus Snake Eyes Phase II was born.”

“The purpose of Snake Eyes Phase II is to simulate bare base field scenarios to evaluate personnel’s ability to survive and operate. This evaluation is based on previously learned readiness training covering Airman’s Manual 10-100, ATSO Air Force Handbook 32-4014, Chemical Warfare Concept of Operation and AFSC warfare skills,” Collins added.

Everything was done in-house, including several briefings, the Alaskan shelter brief that showed how to build tents, self-aid and buddy care kits as well as manikins, trucks and the field site, which were provided by Tech Sgt. David Torres and Staff Sgt. Steven Conrad, a team of U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine instructors.

The medics’ training consisted of a mass casualty exercise that included casualty movement, loading and evacuation. The training teaches medics the correct way to transport patients and how to triage injured military personnel, ensuring casualties are treated in the most efficient manner. Training also included litter load-



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

From left, Senior Airman Michael Ona, Tech. Sgt. Anna Chapa and Staff Sgt. Isaac Reynaga practice patient transport as litter bearers during the first field Medical Unit Readiness Training, in conjunction with an Ability To Survive and Operate evaluation. The exercise provided unique training for Brooks’ personnel.

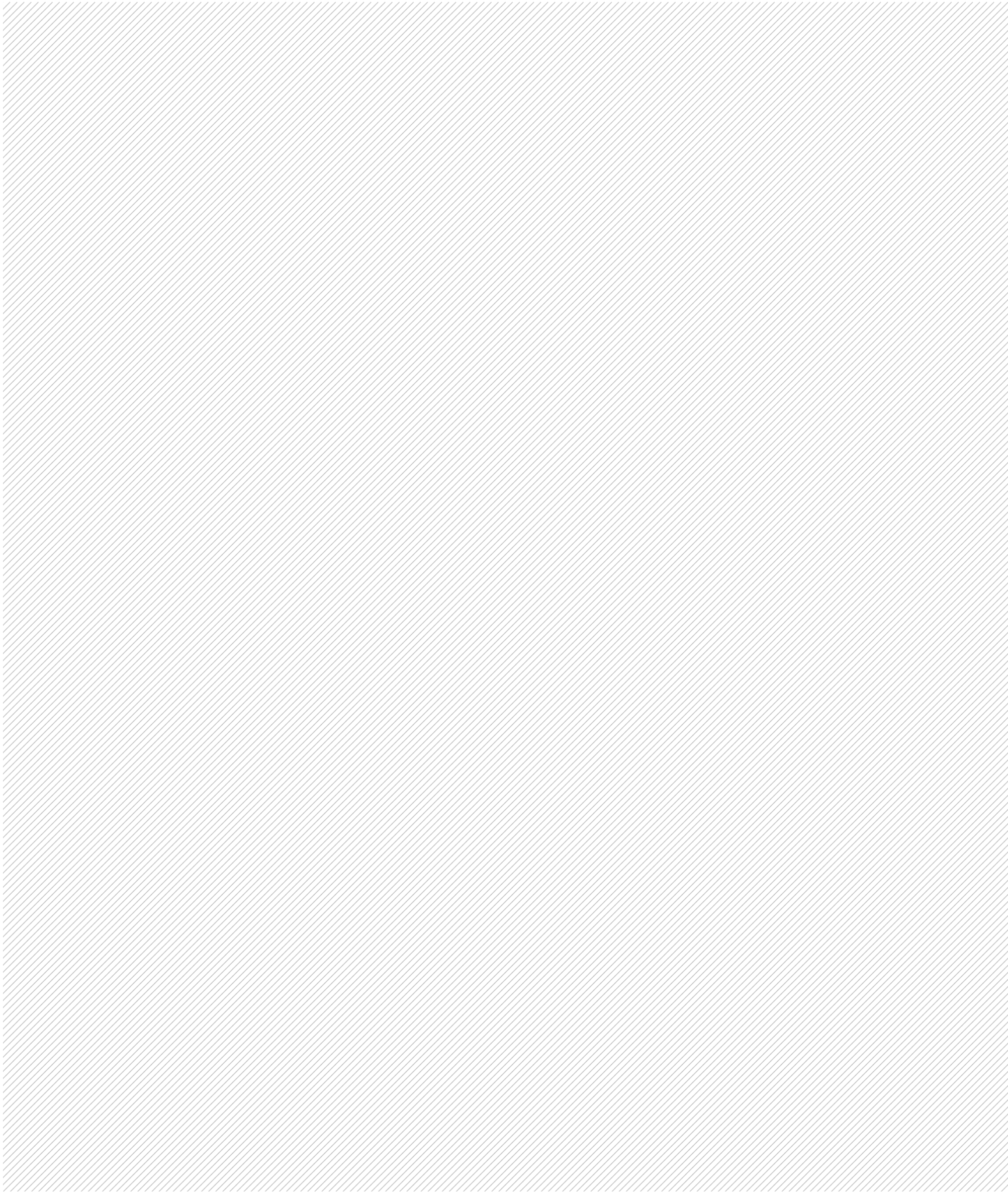
ing, wound care and casualty management, touching on treatment for shock, blood loss and splinting of legs and arms if necessary.

“We take this training very seriously and are working hard to make sure our Brooks’ medical unit is the best trained in the operational field,” said Staff Sgt. Linda Weaver, 311th MDS Noncommissioned Officer In Charge of Medical Readiness. “When lives are on the line our doctors, nurses, and support staff need to know exactly what to do and when to do it.”

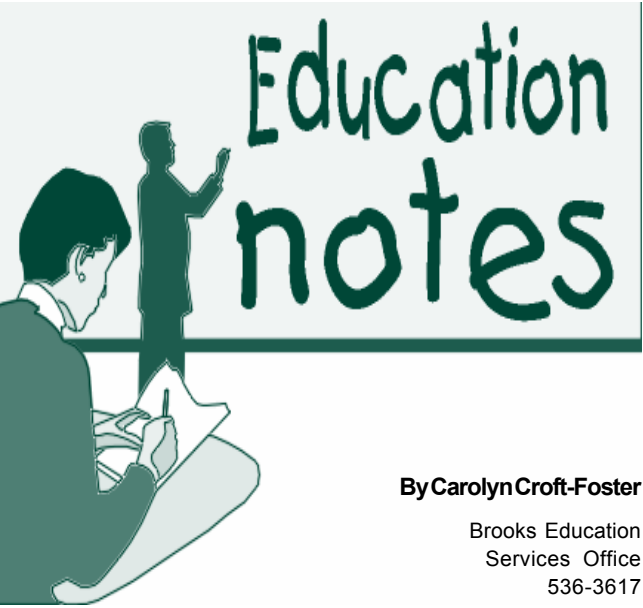
This new kind of training is the first specialized ATSO training for the medical career field and is the brain

child of what’s to come for Brooks. “We still can send our people to Lackland Air Force Base to receive MURT but now that we can tailor ATSO to include MURT we allow our medical division to stay current on the mission in a simulated deployed location,” said Weaver.

According to Collins the future of ATSO Snake Eyes II is to develop customized scenarios that challenge all deployable Brooks personnel. It will provide commanders and supervisors a tool to identify areas for improvement that can enhance the in-house training program to the utmost for readiness preparedness.







ByCarolynCroft-Foster

Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

CLEP tests retire

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams retire Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. In January the following exams will be recalled: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology and Principles of Management. All other exams retire March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available at national test centers but costs are not currently reimbursed. The Education Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

DANTES/DSST fees

The fee for DANTES transcripts for military members inceased to \$20 in October. The cost of DSST exams for civilians also increased to \$45.

Contact the Education Center for details.

St. Mary’s University

St. Mary’s Graduate School offers graduate courses in Business administration, Computer Systems and Engineering. St. Mary’s also has a master of Arts program that leads to Texas Teacher’s Certification. For details about any of the graduate programs St. Mary’s offers, call the Education Services Center or visit the representative Wednesdays between noon and 2 p.m.

Upper Iowa University

UIU now offers classes at Brooks. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, online, or through external degree programs. The programs offered at Brooks include bachelor of science degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, Technology and Information Management, Human Resource Management, Human Services and Management. Pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu. UIU has a Partnership Advantage agreement with Palo Alto College.

Upper Iowa also offers a “Math-Haters” course, Math 105 College Mathematics, that meets Community College of the Air Force math requirements. The next class is scheduled to begin in January and runs for eight weeks. Call the Education Center for more information.

Embry-Riddle programs

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers master of Aeronautical Science, bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and bachelor of Technical Management programs at Randolph Air Force Base. Plans are underway for a south-side teaching location in 2004. The representative provides academic counseling at

Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Call 659-0801 if interested.

Discover Program on-line

The Discover Program is a career exploration program that can be used by military, civilians, and family members. Schedule an appointment to get started.

Virtual Education Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is online. View information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from the site. The site also features practice tests for CLEP exams. To access the AFVEC go to: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> and establish an account. Call the Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree, which provides excellent opportunities for individuals to capitalize on prior experience. Students pursuing this degree can transfer credits previously earned, individualize degree plans with emphasis in an occupational field of choice and earn credit for work and life experience and business, industry and military training. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. Call 536-3618 for more information.

National Graduate School

The National Graduate School offers a program to finish a bachelor’s degree in one year and then complete a master’s degree in another year. The representative visits Brooks Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 536-3617 or visit the Web site at: www.NGS.edu.



Happy Thanksgiving

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

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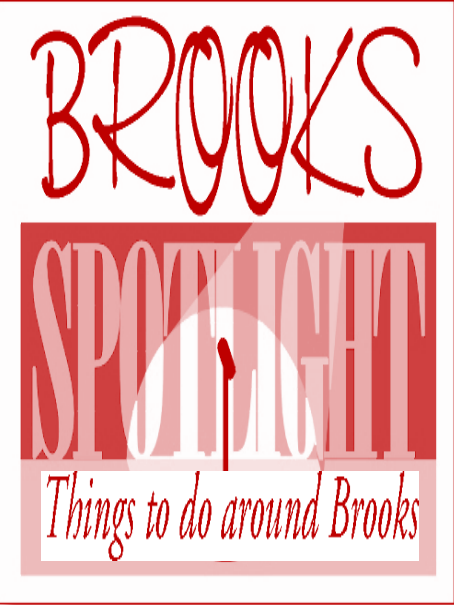
Solutions, Page 18

ACROSS

1. Native American who helped 6 ACROSS in 1620
6. Purtain helped by 1 ACROSS
12. Tiger's organization
13. USAF space-lift vehicle for satellites
14. Cash machine
15. Poetry
17. Desire
18. Fiction writer Edgar Allen ____
19. Hope for Thanksgiving
20. Actresses Thompson and Caulfield
22. Knight
23. Drop
26. Dirt
27. Wampanoag chief invited to first Thanks-giving
31. Item 1 ACROSS taught 6 DOWN to raise
34. Woodwind instrument
35. Stadium cheers
36. Saga
37. Mend
38. Mocks
40. Overseas address
41. Tail markings for a/c assigned to 28th BW
42. Supervisor change in USAF (abbrev.)
43. USAF assignment system (abbrev.)
46. Computer "laugh"
47. Terra ____, Ind.
49. Tail marking for a/c assigned to 180th FW
50. Center of the solar system
51. Thanksgiving items filled with food
54. Reason for first Thanksgiving
55. Mistake
58. Actress Archer
59. 1621 colony governor who declared first Thanksgiving
60. Item had after Thanksgiving meal
61. Sault ____ Marie

DOWN

1. Emergency code
2. Former US base, RAF ____ Heyford
3. Holy site in India
4. USAF E-4 aircraft
5. Lyrical poem
6. Colony founded by 6 ACROSS
7. Article
8. Actresses Turner and Clarkson
9. Talk
10. Simpson trial judge
11. French lady (abbrev.)
16. Cliques
19. Former home to Clark AFB (abbrev.)
21. The Final Frontier?
22. Native American who first interacted with Mass. colony
24. President who declared Thanksgiving a national day
25. Apply
26. Hamm and Farrow
28. Cain's brother
29. Female pig
30. Mining goal
32. October birthstones
33. Remove from a magazine (two words)
38. Ancient Germanic letter (two words)
39. Acronym for George W. Bush
42. Dress a turkey?
44. Actress Kelly of The Cutting Edge
45. Pieces of glass
47. What 51 ACROSS are made of
48. Shock therapy formally (abbrev.)
51. Walking stick
52. Lively
53. Cushy
54. Owned
56. Fish egg
57. Increase



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Family Child Care Office

Bldg. 1154, 536-2041

Need child care, well look no more: The Brooks Family Child Care Program has three licensed providers with vacancies, ready to suit your child care needs. A listing of providers is available at the Family Child Care Office, the Child Development Center, Bldg. 502, and the Youth Center, Bldg. 470.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Join the Consolidated Club System Dec. 4 and 5 and receive two free months dues. Bank One staff will visit Brooks to help sign up new members and give information on banking services. Sign up Dec. 4 at Sidney’s from

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 5 at Sidney’s from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. or later that evening, between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Brooks Club. Club members receive discounts at all Services facilities with the exception of the Youth Center and Child Development Center.

Bring the entire family to Family Night Buffet every Tuesday. Adults pay \$4 and children, 6-10 years, pay \$2. Children, 5 years and younger, eat for free. Free movies are shown during the evening. Take advantage of these great buffets: Nov. 25 is fried chicken buffet; Dec. 2, barbecue buffet; Dec. 9, Italian and a Mexican food buffet is scheduled for Dec. 16.

Purchase your Bonanza Bingo cards from the cashiers or bartenders at both Sidney’s and the Brooks Club. Cards are \$1 each and you can win from \$2 to \$1,000 daily. Check the poster board on display for the various ways that you can bingo and win money.

Mark Dec. 31 on your calendar and make plans to attend the annual New Year’s Eve Party at the Brooks Club. The festivities start at 8 p.m. and end after the New Year is ushered in. Get ready for a fun-filled evening and be sure to bring a friend or two to the party.

Sidney’s

Bldg. 714, 536-3538

November’s Grill Special is grilled ham and cheese with fries. The grill is open Monday through Friday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sidney’s Lounge is open Friday evenings from 3:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Snacks are served every Friday.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

Cappuccino is available at Brooks.

Be one of the first to stop by and try the specialty coffees. Stop by seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until dusk. Select from French Vanilla, Almond Amaretto or Butternut Cocoa. Purchase a 12 oz. cup for 75 cents, 16 oz. cup for 85 cents or a 20 oz. cup for 95 cents. Bring in the coupon and purchase any size cappuccino for the price of a 12 ounce cup. Keep your eyes open for Krispy Kreme doughnuts, also.

Teen Center

Bldg. 641, 536-3160

Brooks teens will collect new unwrapped toys, flea market items and monetary donations to help purchase toys for disadvantaged children in conjunction with the San Antonio Child Protective Services. Teen Centers throughout the San Antonio area will host a Flea Market in December to raise funds for the project. Items for Toys from Teens can be dropped off at the Youth Center, Bldg. 470, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and at the Teen Center from 6 to 9 p.m.

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Join the Youth Center staff Dec. 4 at 4:30 p.m. in Schriever Park for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The audience will sing Christmas carols following the lighting ceremony. Bring the children, both young and young at heart, to visit with Santa Claus and his helpers. They will arrive at the park as everyone sings “Here Comes Santa.” Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Santa is sending his helpers to make your holiday gift wrapping painless. Santa’s helpers will wrap gifts at the the Youth Center Dec. 8 - 23 from

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wrapping paper and ribbons are provided. Donations are accepted.

If you’re planning a holiday party in the office or home and don’t have a Santa suit, rent one from the Youth Center and be the hit of the party. Suits rent for \$15 per event and include the suit, hat, beard, hair, belt, boot coverings and a “goodie” bag to deliver gifts to special people on your list. Call 536-2515 to reserve your suit early and ensure you have one for that special party. Call the center staff for more details.

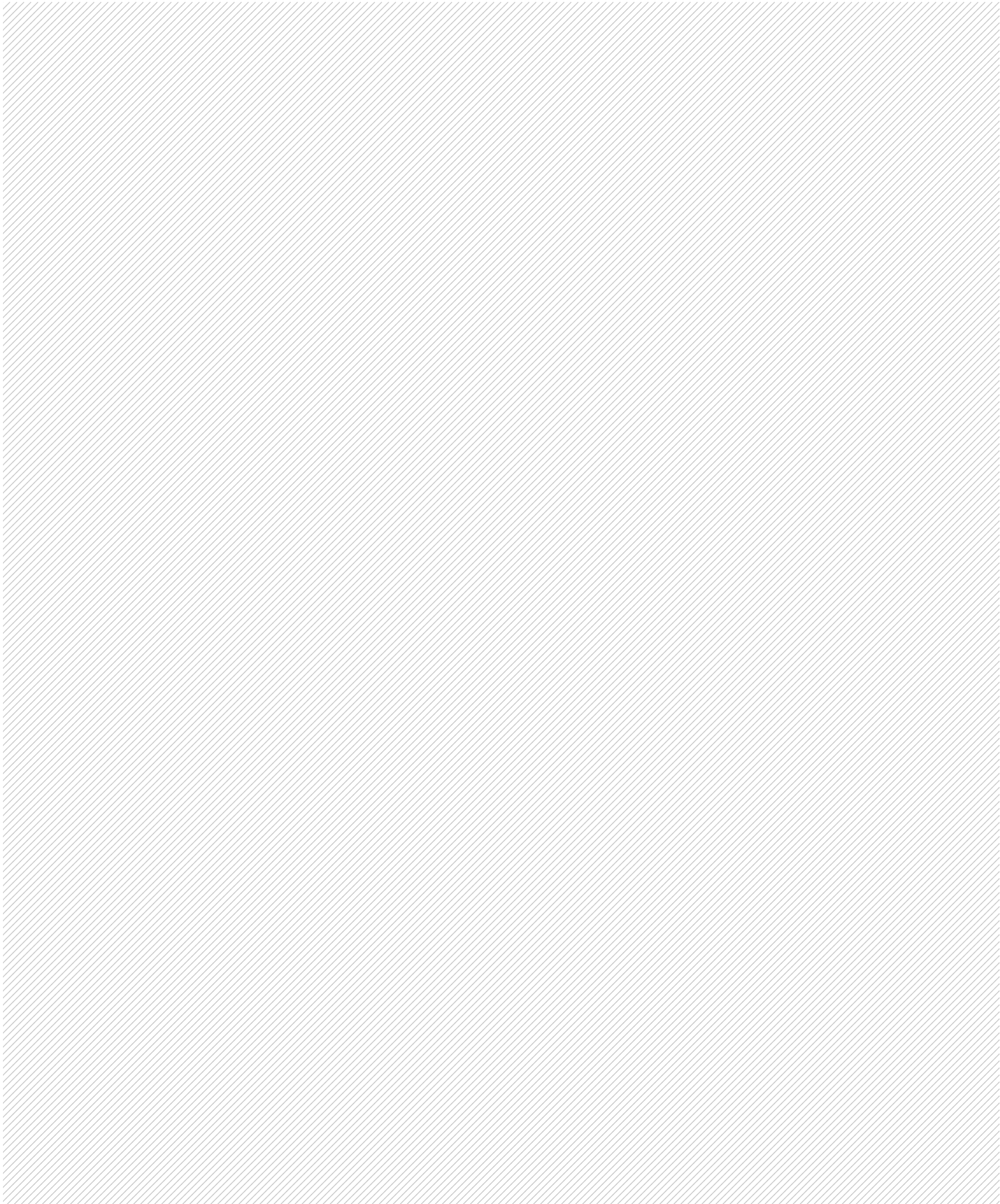
Cover me for Christmas

Donations of winter sweaters, jackets, coats or blankets will be collected in the Services Marketing Office through Dec. 19. Items will be given to Brooks individuals or families who may be in need of winter clothing. Any remaining items will be donated to a local charity. New and used items are accepted. Take this opportunity to clean out the closets and donate unused items. Call Vida Marsh, marketing director, at 536-8057 for details.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Plan a special gift for that special someone this holiday season. Premiere Designs offers laser engraving, framing packages, business cards, presentation gifts and many consignment items. Imagination is the key to a creative one-of-a-kind present. Add a special touch to photos you’re having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. Let us show what a difference this can make to your family photos, that big catch that no one believed, your grandchild or any other special picture.





Dr. Edward Teller helped launch the 'atomic age'

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

He is best remembered for his contributions to science as a pioneering nuclear physicist who helped launch "the atomic age." Yet for Dr. Edward Teller, known to the world as the "Father of the Hydrogen Bomb," one of his most joyous moments in life was the time he tricked colleague Enrico Fermi into believing the latter had finally beaten him in Ping-Pong.

"I had beaten him every time we played. I decided to play a little trick on him," Teller recalled during a meeting with a Brooks scientific team earlier this year. Right-handed, Teller decided to play the match left-handed. Fermi never noticed that Teller had switched hands, allowing him to beat his friend for the first time. Fermi's euphoria of having won the match quickly dissolved when Teller held up his Ping-Pong paddle in his left hand.

The scientific legend left this world Sept. 9, at age 95 in Stanford, Calif. He passed away close to the Hoover Institute where he served as a senior research fellow, and just miles from his beloved Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he maintained an office as Director Emeritus.

Teller's legacy is one of scientific achievement and controversy. He helped develop the atomic and hydrogen bombs, championed the peaceful and safe use of nuclear power and promoted the ill-fated Strategic Defense Initiative, known as "Star Wars."

He was an adviser to presidents and colleague to many of the world's greatest scientific minds, including Albert Einstein and quantum theorist Niels Bohr.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1908, Teller initially studied chemical engineering but switched to theoretical physics, earning a Ph.D. in that field from Germany's



During a visit to Brooks last year, Dr. Edward Teller demonstrates how, although right-handed, he tricked his colleague Enrico Fermi by playing a left-handed ping pong match and allowing his friend to finally win.

“We scientists are not responsible and should not be responsible for making decisions. But we scientists are uniquely and absolutely responsible for giving information. We must provide the decision makers with the data...”

Dr. Edward Teller
'Father' of the Hydrogen Bomb

University of Leipzig in 1930. He fled Germany in 1933 when the Nazis came to power, emigrating to the U.S. in 1935 where he initially worked as a George Washington University physics professor.

His first significant scientific contribution occurred in 1937 when he and Emil Jahn discovered the role of electron energy levels in determining the shape of molecules with more than two atoms.

Known as the Jahn-Teller effect, its value within modern chemistry influenced work in spectroscopy, calculating chemical reactivity and determining crystal structure.

The discovery of nuclear fission by German scientists in 1939 led Teller and Hungarian colleague Leo Szilard to convince Einstein to sign a letter to President Franklin Roosevelt promoting an American atom bomb-building project.

Their efforts resulted in the creation of the then secret Manhattan Project conducted at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico.

Teller worked on atomic fission with Fermi at the University of Chicago until 1942, then joined the Manhattan Project where he devised the implosion approach used in the first atomic bomb.

During the Cold War, Teller developed the world's first hydrogen bomb. Teller believed more explosive power would be generated by fusing rather than splitting the nuclei of atoms.

Fermi had originated the idea of using a fission explosion to ignite a thermonuclear (fusion) explosion in deuterium (heavy hydrogen).

Teller's modification of the technique using x-rays instead of shock waves to trigger the hydrogen explosion led to the first successful H-bomb test in 1952.

Shortly thereafter, Teller began his long association with the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he served as associate director from 1954 until his retirement in 1975.

It was during his first year



Courtesy photos

Dr. Edward Teller stands next to the largest-ever Russian hydrogen bomb during a 1994 visit to the Russian weapons research center Chelyabinsk-70.

there that Teller's earlier association with Manhattan Project director J. Robert Oppenheimer was made public during the McCarthy Era "loyalty hearings."

Teller had in two 1952 interviews with the FBI cast doubt on Oppenheimer's actions. Having never accused his former boss of disloyalty, Teller's negative statements, nevertheless, led the federal government to strip Oppenheimer of his security clearance.

While that controversy haunted Teller for years, his biggest regret was the use of atomic weapons against the Japanese in World War II.

In a 1995 Associated Press interview, Teller wondered if the war could have been ended by exploding the bombs in the sky miles over Tokyo harbor rather than destroying the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

He confessed, "I think we shared the opportunity and the duty, which we did not pursue, to find a possibility to demonstrate the bomb. Now in retrospect I have regret."

What Teller never regretted was helping the U.S. become a nuclear power. He was a tireless advocate of a strong national defense, which led him to convince President Ronald Reagan to establish SDI, a missile defense shield that used x-ray lasers to destroy enemy missiles. While he defended the concept in his 1987 book *Better a Shield Than a Sword*, the project

was eventually abandoned. However, the former SDI department became the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, which has since researched other ways to destroy enemy ballistic missiles.

Although some of Teller's views have been unpopular, throughout his life he never hesitated to express his opinion on issues involving science and technology.

"We scientists are not responsible and should not be responsible for making decisions. But we scientists are uniquely and absolutely responsible for giving information. We must provide the decision makers with the data. On the basis of this, they will have the best chance to make the right decisions," he said.

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Teller views Air Force as 'natural agent' for global weather prediction

(Editor's Note: Before his death in September, pioneering nuclear physicist Dr. Edward Teller shared his views that weather prediction could be significantly enhanced by leveraging advances in Air Force science and technology. His comments were made during an exclusive interview arranged by the 311th Human Systems Program Office and conducted at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Nearly blind and suffering from severe hearing loss, Dr. Edward Teller's frailty did not inhibit him from exercising his razor-sharp intellect. Months before his death at age 95, this legendary nuclear physicist discussed how Air Force technology could be developed to support worldwide weather prediction.

Earlier this year, Teller proposed to Air Force scientists and engineers from the 311th Human Systems Program Office the creation of a global weather monitoring system that would use a series of weather sensors linked to a supercomputer that could greatly enhance worldwide weather forecasting.

"By using worldwide observations, and the collective calculations (of computers), one could extend the prediction from five days to two weeks. That would have enormous consequences," Teller said.

Specifically, the accuracy of global weather forecasting, Teller explained, could help save countless lives and significantly lessen nature's destructive power on agriculture and property. More important to Teller, however, its value to the world could help change global perceptions about the U.S.

"I am amazed and worried about the unpopularity of the United States abroad. We have helped the world enormously in two world wars. We have now fought off a danger from Iraq with minimal of bloodshed. For all this, we seem to get minimal credit," said Teller.

He suggested, however, that a globally-supported weather forecasting system could effect positive change that might help reverse America's problematic international relations.

"We (U.S.) tried to make changes

in global warming. I am for prediction and not for change, partly because prediction is easier, partly because it is less easier to be criticized. By (the U.S.) making the (weather) predictions available to everybody, it seems to be a little hard(er) to accuse the United States of selfish motives," said Teller.

Such a global system could be developed by the U.S. through the help of scientific advances in Air Force computer and airborne sensor technology. He and his colleagues at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory believe the Air Force to be the logical candidate for supporting a global weather forecasting system because of the service's past contributions to weather analysis and its current global surveillance missions. Teller noted that mounting weather sensors on Air Force aircraft would be useful only if current computer technology's computation capability is greatly enhanced.

"The problem with weather prediction is obviously that it is complex. Our computers have (been) developed in the last decade by a factor of and speed of efficiency, I would estimate, of more than one thousand. The main problem, therefore, is not only to continue this (advances in computer technology), but very particularly to get the data on which weather computation is based. In order to predict the future, you have to know the present, to find the state of the atmosphere over the whole area, and in the areas from which weather drifts in. It's very specifically the business of the Air Force," Teller explained.

For decades, the Air Force had been involved in supporting the current weather forecasting system that relies on a series of weather balloons.

"An effective observational system is now operating. The National Weather Service now launches



Courtesy photo

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy presents Dr. Edward Teller, center, with the Enrico Fermi Award in recognition of "contributions to chemical and nuclear physics," for his leadership in thermo-nuclear research and for his efforts to strengthen national security. On the left is Glenn Seaborg, Atomic Energy Commission chairman. Teller's wife Mici is at JFK's right.

strips of balloons twice every 24 hours in every state of the Union. Similar strings of balloons are launched in smaller numbers throughout the rest of the world. The present system is helpful in giving information about temperature, humidity and barometric pressure," Teller said.

What this system can not predict with accuracy, however, are atmospheric changes.

What Teller proposes through a global weather monitoring network is the launching of a series of light corner reflectors, consisting of three one-inch-sized or sub-inch-sized extremely thin metal surfaces. These reflectors would be used to reflect light or infra-red radiation by 180 degrees in concert with light pulse or infra-red pulse-emitting high altitude balloons or satellites.

"One could frequently obtain positions and velocities of the corner reflectors that move along with the winds. The whole system would be extremely useful in understanding the global atmosphere. The data derived from it would contribute needed precision to the observation of global warming," Teller said.

Such a system would not be inexpensive. By his estimates, the initial system could cost about \$2

billion annually.

"It would be a worldwide investment that would pay off. For the U.S. alone the investment would be significantly less, but still worthwhile. Such a development would be significant in the world economy and would be an inducement for world peace," Teller said.

He also noted that a side benefit of such a system would be its capability to reliably trace the explosion of any nuclear device.

Teller expressed optimism about the Air Force potentially applying advances in technology to weather prediction. He said the Air Force is naturally suited for this kind of work that could lead to more scientific understanding of the dynamics of the Earth's atmospheric system.

Today, scientists continue to grapple with the weather predictability problem, particularly the effects of large scale weather disturbances such as El Nino and La Nina that affect climactic changes.

"It's very important to find out which kind of disturbances are apt to go and what kinds are apt to die out. In general, not enough is known about it. The Air Force is a natural agent to explore this," Teller said.

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SPO outreach to national lab led to RCLAD work, Teller proposal

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Months before the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001, an inaugural visit to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory by a 311th Human Systems Program Office scientific team led to the joint development of a prototype device used to search for victims at New York's World Trade Center. More importantly, that collaborative venture has since led to a steady increase in shared information about research between the weapons lab that Dr. Edward Teller founded and Brooks scientists searching for technologies that could help the Air Force.

"We visited Lawrence Livermore in early 2001 looking for technologies that could be transitioned for warfighters. We initially discovered they were working on micro-pulse radar used to detect things through doors, such as (enemy) military personnel," said Col. Daniel Berry, Aeromedical/Medical Information Systems Division chief for the 311th SPO.

Berry's team recognized the significance of this technology in terms of an unintended application:



Remote Casualty Location Assessment Device

finding people buried alive. Berry said the technology that Lawrence Livermore scientists had been developing could have been used to help search for victims of the 1996 Kobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia or in natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Maj. Al Gracia, 311th SPO's chief of the warfighter requirements, commercial products and new technologies branch, later became instrumental in arranging for Lawrence Livermore scientists' trip to New York to participate in the "ground zero" recovery effort using the Remote Casualty Location Assessment Device, known simply as RCLAD. Developed at Lawrence Livermore in 1993, RCLAD uses micro-pulse radar to penetrate through solid objects, such as rubble as deep as 30 feet.

"It can detect motion, such as heartbeats and respiration using multiple radar frequencies that are not affected by concrete, wood and most debris material," Gracia explained.

Since 9-11, SPO scientists and engineers have successfully tested RCLAD, leading to its military transition for use in search and rescue operations. That initial collaborative venture with Lawrence Livermore led to an expanded SPO scientific team revisiting the University of California's weapons laboratory in early 2003 to further develop a rapport and working relationship with scientists there.

"We were looking at their technologies when we met Dr. Teller," recalled Berry about the legendary scientist and the world's preeminent authority on nuclear power. "He talked to us about a supercomputer to be used to monitor the weather."

"The ideas he had for new technologies were amazing, especially at his age," Berry said.

That initial encounter with Teller led to a follow-up meeting with him that was arranged by the SPO's Elton Hudgins. Hudgins, who was part of the SPO team that first met Teller in early 2003, used a subsequent visit to Lawrence Livermore to gather information about technologies being developed there that could help advance research being conducted at Brooks, ultimately leading to applications that will benefit warfighters.

Tax relief aids military, families

By K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Legislation signed by President George W. Bush on Nov. 11 increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free.

That portion of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for servicemembers who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton. She is the director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

“If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you’re in theater, or in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed,” she said. “And that’s a big change. In addition, any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax-free.”

The death gratuity has been \$6,000 since 1991, with half of it being taxed, she said. “It just didn’t seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their servicemember to get hit with a tax bill,” Fenton said.

Capital-gain exclusion for home sales is one of the most common areas people were looking for tax relief in, Fenton said. “This act will allow members to suspend the period of time which they have to sell their home and take the tax exclusion so they won’t have to pay that capital gains,” she said. “It’s retroactive to 1997 so military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11 to request a refund for any tax they did pay.”

Since 1997, when the law was previously changed, if servicemembers who owned a home got reassigned more than 50 miles from that home or was ordered to move on post, they were no longer able to roll over the gain from that sale to the next home they purchased.

Also since 1997, individuals could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in it for two of the five years preceding the sale. Under this act, military and foreign service people can suspend (for up to 10 years) the time transferred away from home on official extended duty for purposes of applying the five-year portion of the two-out-of-five-year rule.

The 2003 act also includes above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses of military reservists and National Guardsmen who have to travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings.

“The act allows for an above-the-line, which means you don’t have to itemize your taxes to take advantage of this deduction,” Fenton said. “(Servicemembers will) be able to deduct unreimbursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs.” This part of the act is retroactive to Jan. 1. When the tax code changed in 1986, it allowed any military benefit existing in September 1986 to remain tax-free, Fenton said. However, it was always unclear whether military child care was included in that, she added.

“This act merely makes it clear that those provisions of child care were intended to be tax-free to military members,” she said.

The tax act also provides for extra tax-filing time for servicemembers serving in contingency operations. The internal revenue code allows servicemembers who are serving in combat zones

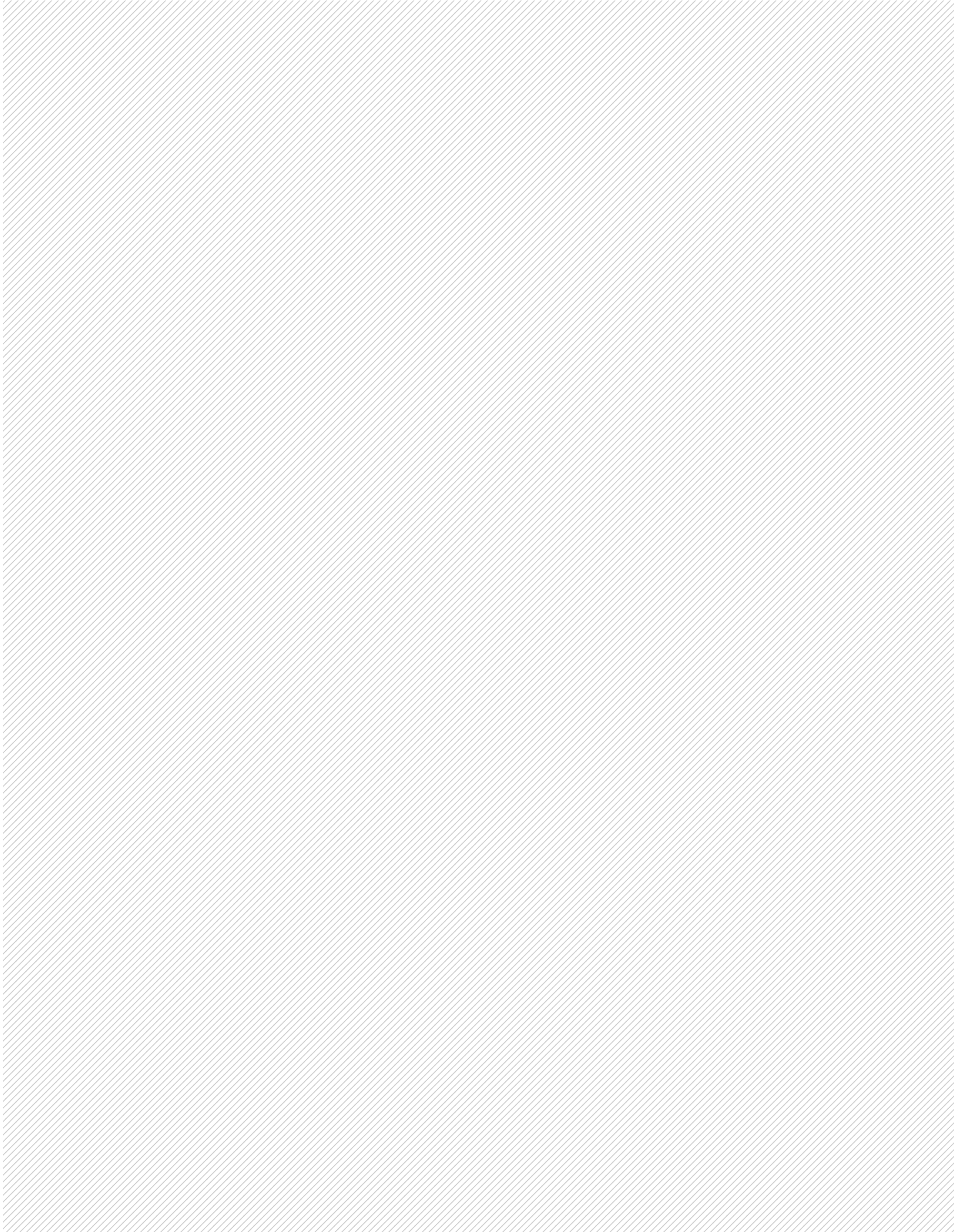
or hazardous-duty areas to have an extension of time — usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone — to file taxes.

“A lot of military operations don’t rise to the level of being declared by the president as ‘combat,’” Fenton said. “But there are several contingency operations where servicemembers are outside the continental United States.”

The act also includes modifying eligibility criteria of tax-exempt veterans organizations; tax-free treatment of homeowners’ assistance program payments; suspension of tax- exempt status for designated terrorist organizations; and extension of victims’ tax relief to astronauts who die on space missions.

Happy Thanksgiving solutions

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Intramural basketball underway at Brooks

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Players from an ever-dwindling pool of base talent kicked off the 2003-2004 Brooks intramural basketball season Nov. 13 with a slate of games that features two new 'older' and experienced teams.

Joining the usual cast of contenders this season are a group calling itself the Geritols, the early morning hoop bunch coached by Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman Craston Artis, and the Brooks men's varsity basketball team led by third-year head coach Hosea Talbert.

"The games the varsity team play won't count," said Pablo Segura, Brooks fitness center specialist. He said the varsity team is using the intramural season here as practice sessions to prepare the squad for next year's Air Force Materiel Command tournament. The varsity hoopsters also play a regular season game schedule in the Southwest Military

Basketball League.

Five other intramural teams participating this season include the defending 2003 league champion Mission Support Group squad coached by Rapfael Pena; the perennial contending Air Force Institute for Operational Health team led by long-time coach Aaron Sinclair; the defending 2003 base champion 68th Information Operation Squadron team coached by Reggie Smith; the 311th Human Systems Program Office squad led by Damion Byrd and the 311th Communications Squadron club coached by Mark McParland.

League games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and noon at the fitness center. The season ends Feb. 12, followed by a double-elimination tournament tentatively scheduled for mid-February.

Players who are not yet registered for the intramural season but are interested in participating should call the fitness center at 536-2188 or stop by.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Teams from the 311th Human Systems Program Office and the 311th Communications Squadron battle each other in the intramural basketball season opener Nov. 13.

Power cycling debuts at Brooks

Squadrons challenged to 'tryouts' to kick off classes

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a move that is sure to please five-time defending Tour de France cycling champion Lance Armstrong, power cycling debuts at the Brooks fitness center in January 2004.

The free hour-long sessions, scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will be conducted in a converted racquetball court using state-of-the-art stationary cycles.

"It's the first time we've had power cycling at Brooks," said Vida Marsh, an internationally certified power cycling instructor who will conduct the classes. Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases also plan to introduce power cycling in January as part of their support of Air Force fitness.

Power cycling first became popular several years ago among fitness enthusiasts who wanted an alternative way to burn calories and exercise muscles.

"It's good for people who do not like routine or who are not necessarily coordinated," Marsh said, cautioning that this activity is not for people "who want to just go along for the ride."

"You need to have the mental drive to do this. It's tough. It kicks butt. You'll definitely wake up muscles you never thought you had, especially in the buttocks and quads," admits Marsh who looks forward to making participants sweat. Marsh estimates that participants will lose at least 300 calories during her workouts.

As an incentive to put session patrons in the right frame of mind, Marsh plans to feature workout music designed to pump participants up.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Vida Marsh, director of Service's marketing and commercial sponsorship, and an internationally certified power cycling instructor, demonstrates one of 12 new power cycles at the Brooks Fitness Center. Cycling classes are scheduled to start at Brooks, as well as at Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases in January.

“You need to have the mental drive to do this. It's tough. It kicks butt. You'll definitely wake up muscles you never thought you had, especially in the buttocks and quads.”

Vida Marsh
Power cycling instructor

"It's better to ride to the mood of the music," Marsh noted about what she describes as 'cycling music.'

Before the music blares, Marsh plans to provide instruction on how to use the cycles and on various cycling techniques and maneuvers.

"What makes these classes harder is that we can increase the tension on the cycles," she said.

Marsh, who serves as Services' director of marketing and commercial

sponsorship, said there are a few class requirements.

First, participants must register for the classes at the fitness center. There are only a dozen bikes available per session. Secondly, attendees must bring a towel, bottles of water to help them hydrate, and must wear tight-fitting athletic clothing to class.

"You can't wear loose-fitting clothing because you may get it caught in the (cycles') chains," she said, recommending that participants wear cycling pants that are padded in the seat and thigh areas.

As a "soft opening" for the classes, Marsh plans to challenge the squadrons on base to a power cycling try-out in December.

More information about the power cycling classes is available at the Base Fitness Center, or by calling Vida Marsh at 536-8057.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

Look for a base e-mail message on the details and date for the squadron cycling challenge.

Rudolph.Purificato@Brooks.af.mil

SPORTS SHORTS

Company
Grade Officers
Council hosts
Turkey Trot



The Brooks Company Grade Officers Council hosts their first Turkey Trot Nov. 24 at the Fitness Center. The event begins at 11 a.m. with late registration at 10 a.m. The 5K run or walk is open to all base personnel for a \$5 entry fee payable by cash or check to the CGOC.

Participants are entered into a drawing for free turkeys and various other prizes.

Contact unit representatives or Capt. Fe Lobo-Menendez at 536-1514.

Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center. Call 536-2188 for more information.

Youth basketball

Registration is underway for youth basketball for children ages 5 to 17. Brooks youth will participate in a league with Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston. Cost for Youth Center members is \$35 and \$50 for non-members. Practice starts Dec. 2 and the season runs from Jan. 11 through March 17.

If you are interested in coaching youth basketball for the Youth Services Center, contact Larry Flores at 536-8130 or -2515.



NEWS briefs

Santas wanted

Have past Christmases seemed to be lacking that special “spirit?” This year, get into the spirit of Christmas by volunteering for the Elf Louise Christmas Project.

This year the project is located in the old Montgomery Wards building in McCreless Mall. Help is needed in several areas. Through Dec. 5, individual volunteers are needed to help with office tasks, warehouse set-up and a wide range of miscellaneous work necessary to get the project started. Project offices are usually open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

From Dec. 5-13, help wrap more than 50,000 gifts. Helpers are also desperately needed to stock toy shelves and organize wrapped gifts in the warehouse. Wrapping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and noon - 6 p.m. Sundays. Walk-in individual volunteers are always welcome. Groups of volunteers must pre-register to ensure enough room for everyone. Dec. 15-23 is your chance to play Santa Claus. Teams of friends, family and co-workers can deliver toys to 6-10 families. Santa suits are ready to go. Santa briefings are held daily from Dec. 5-13 at 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sundays.

Last year, Elf Louise volunteers gathered, wrapped, and personally delivered more than 50,000 toys to nearly 9,000 families in the Bexar county area.

For more information, call the Elf Hotline at 224-1843, extension 200, or contact Sharon Earley at 536-2825, or by email at: Sharon.Earley@brooks.af.mil.

Promotions ceremony

The monthly promotion ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. at the Brooks Club. Come out and support the newest promotees.

Motorcycle Riders’ Club

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders’ Club is looking for interested motorcycle enthusiasts to join. Contact Staff Sgt. Caesar Velez at 536-8490 for more information or by email at: ceaser.velez@brooks.af.mil.

Toastmasters

Hangar 9 Toastmasters meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 in Bldg. 559, classroom 3. Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment to develop communication and leadership skills, which foster confidence and personal growth. Toastmasters is open to all Brooks personnel. Call 2nd Lt. Laura Chavez at 536-2086 for details.

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet qualifications are eligible for compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for information.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protec-

tion Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Subjects must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for information. The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division needs active duty volunteers, ages of 18 and 50 years who are able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam. Volunteers participate in several studies to aid in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for aircrew in war and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Call Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258 for additional information.

Randolph scholarships

The Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian, or dependent community. Applications will be available Nov. 24 at Brooks, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph AFB, and Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices and family support centers. Applications and information can be downloaded from the Web site at: www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/brkmlkbh.htm. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., Feb. 5. Scholarships range from \$500-\$1,000 and will be awarded at a luncheon scheduled for Feb. 25. Contact 1st Lt. Lorrie Carter at 536-4896 for details.



Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each First Friday of the month

and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
10 a.m. — Catholic CCD
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children’s church

Lifebuilder’s series

The Lifebuilder’s Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.